

Cariboo Chilcotin Orienteering Club

2023 Report

The Cariboo Chilcotin Orienteering club was very active this past year.

We hosted 13 events including:

- 3 winter events, 2 of which were snowshoe/cross-country ski events
- 3 spring events along with 2 training sessions
- 5 fall events including our first Spook-O

Our membership has increased from 44 in 2022 to 88. Many are families with young children. Orienteering was introduced to the local scout group which involved a learning session at one of their meetings followed the next weekend with an in-town event. This was very successful as many families took part with their young scouts.

School programs – hundreds of school students were introduced to orienteering this year as we've been actively supporting teachers through making maps of their school grounds, holding in-school sessions, and providing advice and resources.

Mapping has been ongoing with several legacy maps updated and new maps created. We are continually looking for new areas to map to increase our map inventory and continue to engage experienced orienteers by helping develop their skills.

For 2024 we will continue working on club development and sustainability. We hope to have just as many events and continue introducing orienteering to more teachers, students, community groups and their families.

GVOC – 2023 Presidents Report

The Greater Vancouver Orienteering Club (GVOC) has had a good year in 2023, with many evening training events, larger single day weekend events and a few weekend events. Additionally, the OAK program for kids has been very successfully running alongside GVOC's regular schedule of events.

Events

By the end of 2023, GVOC will have hosted:

- 24 WET (Wednesday Evening Training) events which have an average attendance of 35 people (up from 27 in 2022). These events are great for all levels of orienteers but are particularly helpful for beginners to improve their skills on smaller maps and provide a great opportunity to discuss route choices and techniques with more experienced members of the club.
- 10 WJR (Why Just Run) events which take place on a weekend day on a larger, generally forested map. These events have seen an increase in average attendance from 58 to 64 per event from 2022 to 2023, with the highest attendance of over 100 at the Lynn Valley Adventure Run which is always a very popular event!
- 2 weekend events
 - Sprint Camp which is a series of sprint events and training sessions over two days on a variety of maps. Although the weather wasn't as cooperative as we'd hoped, this event was a great opportunity to catch up with friends and work on orienteering skills in a variety of individual, mass start and relay sprint events.
 - Lundbom which was a two day event on this lovely map outside Merritt. It was a novelty for GVOC to get to host an event on such open terrain given we're used to running on west coast dark green forests. The lakeside campsite and beautiful weather provided a wonderful weekend and enticed some folks from clubs in the interior.
- The OAK program for kids in the spring was a sell out and we've got a few who are keen to get racing. A few of them got out for the 3 hour Lynn Valley Adventure Run score-O and did some additional training in the fall so we're hoping to develop this program more in the coming years. As always, volunteer availability may be the limiting factor.

Membership

GVOC has healthy membership numbers for 2023 and we may get a few more at the Stanley Park WJR which will close out the events calendar for us in mid December. As of early November our membership status is:

- 395 full members
- 48 visitors (members of another OC club)
- 59 day of event members

Permanent Course

Laurent Mingo put a lot of time and effort into developing and installing a permanent course on the campus of Capilano University and installing QR codes so that curious passers by can find out what it's all about and complete one of the course options, which start quite easy for total beginners and get harder from there. We're hopeful that this course will see a lot of activity and work is currently underway to extend this into a park area to the west and to install another permanent course in the City of North Vancouver too.

Future plans

Going forward GVOC wants to build on the successes of 2023 and continue to innovate with our events to attract more people to our club and to the sport of orienteering. In particular we are working on strategies to convert our event attendance to volunteers and new executive members to take the club forward into 2024 and beyond.

Caoimhe Murray,

GVOC President

Sage Orienteering Club President's Report to OBC AGM 2023

The Sage Orienteering Club had a generally successful year in 2023. This year we focused our efforts predominantly on driving new membership and participation growth in Salmon Arm along with organizing the Western Canadian Orienteering Championships (WCOCs) in Kelowna. Our membership numbers are lower than we would have hoped, but are not a catastrophic drop from historic levels. The largest drop is in Kamloops, due to the lack of a junior program or other events this year. Participation numbers are roughly as anticipated.

In many respects, Sage is a conglomeration of four different smaller clubs in Salmon Arm, Kelowna, Kamloops, and Revelstoke; however, we share some common issues. An increasingly time consuming aspects of organizing orienteering events is permitting. Regional District and City parks are either increasingly challenging to get permits, or are impossible to get permits. Other than taking far more volunteer time than it used to, we are able to get permits (when needed) for provincial recreation sites on crown land areas, but these tend to be further from the city where it is harder to draw new participation. At least in part tied to this problem, is a lack of volunteers: both trained officials and general volunteers for anything not at an actual orienteering event. This is due in part at least to poor volunteer recruitment and retention strategies by the club, something we need to work on going forward.

Brief summaries of each individual community within our larger club are below:

Salmon Arm

Spearheaded by two key volunteers, Salmon Arm had an excellently permitted, organized, and attended spring series of beginner friendly events that had excellent participation. With these two volunteers being busy in the fall, we struggled to organize a proper series of events, with only a few self directed events being offered. We are considering a two day ski-O weekend for this winter at Larch Hills.

Kelowna

The highlight of the year was organizing a very successful WCOCs & BCOCs weekend on brand new maps on some simply spectacular terrain. The event was very well reviewed and attended by out of club members, but it was a drain on our organizing capabilities: almost no other events were organized in the spring in Kelowna so we had limited new faces join the club during this time. This fall, we started a weekly evening training series which provided some excellent training opportunities and we hope will continue to grow moving forward into next year. Our largest challenge in Kelowna is permitting for natural environment parks close to the city is almost impossible, and most urban parks are insufficiently safe for an evening event, even if we could get permits.

Kamloops

We have very limited volunteer time and resources in Kamloops, which has meant a slow decline in events and membership in the community. The core of the club is decidedly now in Salmon Arm and Kelowna, and without some new faces in Kamloops moving in from elsewhere, this trend will likely continue. Our volunteers in other communities are stretched too thin already elsewhere to help that far from home.

Revelstoke

We returned to organizing some events in Revy for the first time since Covid, and were pleased to maintain our local organizer (thanks Bart!) and some local volunteers and participants. We need to target an officials course here next year (or possibly just online), and possibly a new adventure-run level map to encourage future growth and long-term stability.

Sage looks forward to addressing some of our concerns regarding volunteers this coming year, and is hopeful for the continuation of a strong orienteering scene in interior BC.

Report prepared by David Bakker, November 5, 2023.

VICO President's Report 2023

Another challenging year for VICO. Lack of access to CRD parks continues to be an issue, as does a lack of course planners/meet directors.

We managed to put on some of our key highlight events – a New Year's Day event, a full determinator series and Spook-O. With a couple of additional events through the year.

Work begins to prepare for BCOCs in Fall 2024 and we have secured access to Camp Thunderbird. Currently looking for an available mapper to update the map this spring/summer.

Chris Ling